



AIM OF SERMON:

To heighten public knowledge and awareness about our foster care system and build community support for foster care programs.

KEY MESSAGE

There are currently nearly 30,000 children in foster care in Los Angeles. We, as a community, need to take responsibility for parenting these youth and treating them as our own – no matter where or with whom they live.

KEY TALKING POINTS

Our Support is Critical for Children in Foster Care

Despite the tremendous needs of foster youth, we also see remarkable success stories. Often these result from individual efforts by members of the community. There are a variety of ways that people can get involved to support children in foster care and improve their lives. These include: becoming an adoptive or foster parent, serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, mentoring or tutoring foster youth, employing and training foster and former foster youth, donating to organizations that serve foster youth, and even helping make sure a child's birthday is not forgotten. Our congregation, individually and collectively, can do more.

Innovative Solutions May Help Reduce the Number of Youth in Foster Care

The foster care system needs sufficient and flexible funding to better address the needs of children and families at risk. Greater availability of alternative, community-based services could enable more children and families to remain together. When foster care is necessary, children should be more quickly reunified with their families or placed in permanent, loving homes. A partnership among the courts, the education system, and child welfare can emphasize accountability, results-oriented management, and innovation.